

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A pneumatic control system comprising:  
a pump;  
at least one inflatable/deflatable article;  
control means for operation of the pump;  
connection means for connecting the article and pump for fluid flow therethrough;  
communication means provided on each of the pump and article wherein at least one of the communication means, upon connection between the pump and article and with the pump's communication means remaining on the pump and the article's communication means remaining on the article, wirelessly identifies the article and instructs has the ability, upon connection between the pump and article, to identify the article and to instruct the control means to activate the pump accordingly; and wherein the communications means of the pump is remotely located from the pump.
2. **(ORIGINAL)** The pneumatic control system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the communication means are capable of exchanging information or energy so as to identify the article as that compatible to the pump and to instruct the pump control means to operate a predetermined inflation and/or deflation of the article by the pump accordingly.
3. **(ORIGINAL)** The pneumatic control system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the communication means on the article is located within the connection means.
4. **(ORIGINAL)** The pneumatic control system as claimed in claim 1, wherein during use the respective communication means do not contact each other.
5. **(ORIGINAL)** The pneumatic control system of claim 1, wherein the communications means of the pump is located within the connection means.

6. **(ORIGINAL)** The pneumatic control system of claim 1, wherein the connection means is integrally coupled to the pump; and wherein the communications means of the pump is located within the connection means in a position distal from the pump.
7. **(ORIGINAL)** The pneumatic control system of claim 1, wherein the communication means of the article includes a radio frequency identification device.
8. **(ORIGINAL)** The pneumatic control system of claim 7, wherein the radio frequency identification device includes a read only memory.
9. **(ORIGINAL)** The pneumatic control system of claim 7, wherein the radio frequency identification device includes a read/write memory.
10. **(ORIGINAL)** The pneumatic control system of claim 1, wherein the communication means of the pump includes a radio circuit.
11. **(ORIGINAL)** The pneumatic control system of claim 10, wherein the radio circuit generates a radio field and is capable of measuring phase changes in the radio field.
12. **(ORIGINAL)** The pneumatic control system of claim 11, wherein the communication means of the article includes material that causes a phase change in the radio field.
13. **(ORIGINAL)** The pneumatic control system of claim 12, wherein the phase change caused by the material is related to the type of material.
14. **(ORIGINAL)** The pneumatic control system of claim 12, wherein the phase change caused by the material is related to the size of the material.

15. **(ORIGINAL)** The pneumatic control system of claim 12, wherein the material includes magnetically loaded plastic.
16. **(ORIGINAL)** The pneumatic control system of claim 12, wherein the material includes a torrid core.
17. **(ORIGINAL)** The pneumatic control system of claim 12, wherein the material includes an amorphous metal strip.
18. **(ORIGINAL)** The pneumatic control system of claim 12, wherein the material includes a steel core.
19. **(ORIGINAL)** The pneumatic control system of claim 12, wherein the material includes cable screen ferrite.
20. **(ORIGINAL)** The pneumatic control system of claim 12, wherein the material includes a brass core.
21. **(ORIGINAL)** The pneumatic control system of claim 12, wherein the material is selected from the group consisting of cable screen ferrite of a first size, cable screen ferrite of a second size, and brass.
22. **(ORIGINAL)** The pneumatic control system of claim 1, wherein the article includes a seat pad.
23. **(ORIGINAL)** The pneumatic control system of claim 1, further comprising a support mechanism capable of functioning as a handle and a hook.

24. **(NEW)** A pneumatic control system including:

- a. at least one inflatable/deflatable article having an article connector with an article connector air passage through which air may be received into, or released from, the article;
- b. a pump having a pump connector with a pump connector air passage through which air may be supplied or withdrawn, wherein:
  - (1) the pump connector is connectable to the article connector,
  - (2) upon connection between the pump connector and the article connector with the pump connector air passage and article connector air passage in communication, at least one of the connectors:
    - (i) wirelessly reads information encoded in the other connector, without the use of electrical conduction between the connectors to communicate the information; and
    - (ii) activates the pump to supply or withdraw air to the article in accordance with the encoded information.

25. **(NEW)** The pneumatic control system of claim 24 wherein the encoded information includes an identification of the article.

26. **(NEW)** The pneumatic control system of claim 24 wherein the encoded information includes instructions for deflation of the article.

27. **(NEW)** The pneumatic control system of claim 24 wherein the pump connector is located distantly from the pump, with an elongated fluid communication line extending between the pump and the pump connector.

28. (NEW) The pneumatic control system of claim 24 wherein the connector wirelessly reading the information:

- emits radio waves, and
- detects changes in the phase of the radio waves when returned from the other connector.

29. (NEW) The pneumatic control system of claim 24 wherein the connector bearing the encoded information includes phase change material therein, the phase change material having a composition, size, and/or configuration such that radio waves emitted by the other connector are reflected by the phase change material with a change of phase in the radio waves.

30. (NEW) The pneumatic control system of claim 24 wherein the article is one of:

- a seat pad whereupon a patient may sit,
- a mattress whereupon a patient may be situated, and
- a garment wearable about at least a portion of a patient's body.

31. **(NEW)** A pneumatic control system including:

- a. at least one inflatable/deflatable article having an article connector with an article connector air passage through which air may be received into, or released from, the article;
- b. a pump having a pump connector with a pump connector air passage through which air may be supplied or withdrawn, wherein:
  - (1) the pump connector is connectable to the article connector,
  - (2) when the pump connector and the article connector are connected with the pump connector air passage and article connector air passage in communication, the pump is activated to supply air to, or withdraw air from, the article via the article connector, in accordance with information received wirelessly from the article connector without the conduction of electrical signals between the connectors.

32. **(NEW)** The pneumatic control system of claim 31 wherein the article is one of:

- a. a seat pad whereupon a patient may sit,
- b. a mattress whereupon a patient may be situated, and
- c. a garment wearable about at least a portion of a patient's body.

33. **(NEW)** The pneumatic control system of claim 32 wherein the information received wirelessly from the article connector includes an identification of the article.

34. **(NEW)** The pneumatic control system of claim 32 wherein the article connector includes phase change material therein, the phase change material having a composition, size, and/or configuration such that radio waves emitted by the pump connector are reflected by the phase change material with a change of phase in the radio waves.